United Nations S/2001/684

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 July 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 9 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the following statement (copies attached in French and English) issued on 6 July 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union, concerning the situation in Burundi (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **De Ruyt**
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

01-45197 (E) 110701 110701

Annex to the letter dated 9 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union, concerning the situation in Burundi

Stirred by public opinion in its Member States and remaining gravely concerned about the situation in Burundi, the European Union:

- Notes the worrying worsening of the political and security situation in Burundi, a country ravaged by an intensification of hostilities, a deterioration in political life, socio-economic collapse, a tragic impoverishment of the population and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- Notes with regret the impasse reached in the peace process, with fundamental issues regarding the cease-fire and leadership of the transition still remaining unresolved, and believes that these two issues cannot be separated but must be dealt with in parallel;
- Considers that it is up to Burundi's politicians themselves to arrive at a consensus on this;
- Expresses its concern at the danger of war in the Great Lakes region (the east of the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi);
- Condemns the fresh upsurge of violence and deplores the fact that the combatants are pursuing the logic of war by stepping up their military operations;
- Points out that there can be no military solution to the conflict and that a cessation of hostilities and a cease-fire are urgently needed, in order to stabilize the country and facilitate a lasting settlement of the regional conflict in the DRC;
- Points out that the mission conducted by the Security Council delegation in May 2001 highlighted once again the responsibilities borne by the States of the region in the Burundian crisis;
- Urgently appeals to Heads of State, meeting in Lusaka for the Summit of the African Union, to bring their influence to bear on all the main parties involved in the conflict to seek a political solution to the current serious crisis;
- Reiterates its willingness to contribute to the search for a peaceful solution in all the appropriate fora and through continued support for the efforts of the Facilitator, Nelson Mandela. It is considering means of increasing its assistance to him in expertise and financial resources, so as to secure a coordinated, ongoing negotiation process with the rebel movements, under the leadership of the Facilitator and drawing on the contacts already established by the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative in Bujumbura;

– Calls upon donors, in particular the international financial institutions, not to leave the people at Burundi to their fate and urges that the pledges given at the Paris Conference be implemented.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as fellow associated countries, and those EFTA countries which are members of the European Economic Area endorse this declaration.